

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, March 24, 1879, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. 1509 Rhode Island Avenue Washington, March 24th., (1879) My dear Mrs. Bell:

I have just received your letter, and answer at once that you may not have the trouble of sending the down. I ought to have told you that I have all, and more than I want, Elsie's coverlet would have been done months ago but we thought warm weather had come then so it would be no use finishing it just then. It only wants a few bows here and there to be ready for use.

I am no glad to hear that Mary really is coming, I began to despair. Our plans are more indefinite than ever now. Alec appeared but for a sudden letter, quite unexpectedly last Sunday and declared his firm resolution not to return to Boston for more than a few days without his family and as I remained firm in my resolution not to venture there at present, set up his traps and made preparations to remain here. Last night however he had to go to New York to attend the examination of Elisha Gray and will not return for at least a week. Then after that I suppose the lawyers will try to pull Alec by hook or by crook to Boston so I want Mary to come just as soon as she own. Alec and I have made plana of all the nice places we are going to when she comes. Mt. Vernen especially which Alec has never soon, and which is in my remembrance one of the loveliest of places. Then Congress has met in extra session so Mary will have an opportunity of seeing our great men, although it is now too late to meet them in pleasanter and more familiar intercourse at Papa's house as Alec and I did last winter.

No Elsie was not in the troubles of vaccination when you saw her, that was done before she was three months old, according to English law. She was troubled by a cold and by her teeth but since then she has been as well and happy as possible and though another

Library of Congress

tooth has come through and one more coming since then, they do not seem to trouble her in the least. 2 She sleeps beautifully and eats, the Dr. says, enough for a child of a year and is as strong and bouncing a little girl as any one could wish to see. Such rosy red sun burnt cheeks as she has, such bright eyes, and merry hearty laughs, squealling and screaming until no one else can hear themselves speak.

The photograph I sent you is not a good one, and does not do her justice, but it is the best we could do. We are trying to find an Artist to paint her, but have not succeeded in finding one we thoroughly like.

Both Mamma and I are looking out for unfurnished houses for next winter but have not found any yet.

Miss Home is ever so much better and my new servants very nice and pleasant.

Papa and Mr. Pollock are talking of trying to get Alec appointed to Mr. Henry's place in the Smithsonian. Prof. Baird is Secretary now, but knows nothing about Physics and that department is absolutely unrepresented and uncared for now.

With much love to you all, Affectionately, Mabel.